

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE:

SUBJECT: New York Bight Monitoring Program Observations, 2002

FROM: Helen Grebe, Regional Coastal Monitoring Coordinator
Monitoring Operations Section (DESA-MOS)

TO: Barbara A. Finazzo, Director
Division of Environmental Science and Assessment (DESA)

THRU: Randy Braun, Acting Chief
Monitoring and Assessment Branch (DESA-MAB)

Attached for your information is the third update of the 2002 NY Bight Monitoring Program. This update covers the period from June 8 - 14, 2002.

Attachment

cc: Jane Kenny, 2RA, via LAN
William Muszynski, 2DRA, via LAN
Richard Caspe, DECA, via LAN
Walter Mugdan, DEPP, via LAN
Bonnie Bellow, 2CD, via LAN
Herbert Barrack, 2OPM, via LAN
Eric Schaaf, 2ORC, via LAN
Paul Molinari, 2DEPP, via LAN
Deborah Szaro, 2DESA, via LAN
Peter Brandt, 2CD, via LAN
Mario Del Vicario, 2DEPP, via LAN
Janice Rollwagen, 2DEPP, via LAN
Felix Locicero, 2DEPP, via LAN
Larry Gaugler, 2DECA, via LAN
Pat Carr, 2CD, via LAN
Mary Mears, 2CD, via LAN
John Bourbon, 2DESA, via LAN
Jim Ferretti, 2 DESA, via LAN
Deborah Kay, 2 DESA, via LAN
Irwin Katz, 2DESA, via LAN
Bob Dieterich, 2DEPP, via LAN
Douglas Pabst, 2DEPP, via LAN
Robert Nyman, 2DEPP, via LAN
Jim Mumman, NJDEP, via EMAIL
Alfred Korndoerfer, NJDEP, via EMAIL
William Eisele, NJDEP, via EMAIL
Eric Feerst, NJDEP, via EMAIL
Robert Connell, NJDEP, via EMAIL
Virginia Loftin, NJDEP, via EMAIL
Elaine Makatura, NJDEP, via EMAIL
Carol Hoffman, NYSDES
Robert Nuzzi, SCHD, via EMAIL
Lester Jarowsky, MCHD, via EMAIL
Ann Marie Fournier, MCHD, via EMAIL
Williams Simmons, MCHD, via EMAIL
Becky Cosgrove, MCHD, via EMAIL
J. Fredrick Grassle, Rutgers, via EMAIL
Dr. Robert Howarth, Cornell, via EMAIL
Robert Reid, NOAA, via EMAIL

2MOS-MAB-DESA:HGrebe:hg:x6797:bldg209:finalized:6/14/02
2MOS-MAB 2MOS-MAB 2MAB-DESA

Grebe Glogower Braun

UPDATE OF NY BIGHT MONITORING PROGRAM FROM June 8 - 14, 2002.

NY Bight Sampling has been as follows:

June 8	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 10	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 11	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Inlet
June 12	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	NJ Beaches	Sandy Hook to Peck Beach
June 13	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Delaware River Basin	Postponed - Weather Conditions
	Commission	
June 14	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

Projected:

June 15	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 17	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 18	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	Long Island Beaches	Rockaway to Shinnecock Island
June 19	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
	New Jersey Beaches	Sandy Hook to Cape May
June 20	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight
June 21	NY/NJ Harbor Complex	Overflight

Floatables

The New York/New Jersey Harbor Complex was monitored for floatables a total of six times from June 8 - 14, 2002. The Harbor Complex was clear of significant floatables on all six days.

Bacteria

Bacteriological samples were collected along the Long Island coast from Rockaway (LIC01) to Shinnecock Inlet (LIC28) on June 11, and along the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook (JC01) to Peck Beach (JC83) on June 12. The samples were tested for fecal coliform (FC) and enterococcus bacteria.

Along the Long Island coast, the highest FC count, 6 FC/100ml, occurred at Rockaway Point (LIC01), Rockaway (LIC04), and Far Rockaway (LIC05). The highest enterococcus count, 4 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Tiana Beach (LIC26). The majority of the remaining results was zero.

Along the New Jersey coast the highest FC count, 4 FC/100ml, occurred at Monmouth Beach (JC11), Seaside Heights (JC53), Brigantine (JC73), and Ventnor City (JC77). The highest enterococcus count, 20 enterococci/100ml, occurred at Belmar (JC27). The majority of the remaining results was zero.

Phytoplankton

Phytoplankton samples were collected along the northern New Jersey coast, in Raritan Bay, and Sandy Hook Bay on June 5, and in Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook Bay, and Barnegat Bay on June 12. Samples were given to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring's Leeds Point Laboratory for analysis. The results for June 12 are not yet available and will be reported next week. The results for June 5, reported by NJDEP are as follows:

Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Area

A bloom of mixed diatoms was reported in Raritan Bay/Sandy Hook Bay. *Skeletonema costatum* was the dominant species. No toxic species were detected.

Northern New Jersey Coast

The coastal waters near Long Branch and Manasquan, were generally clear with algal concentrations sparse. No toxic species were detected.

Beach Closures

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services, on Wednesday June 12, ordered the closure of all Suffolk County, town and village ocean beaches after a white “rubbery” substance washed up onshore. Suffolk County park officials discovered the rubbery substance at Smith Point Beach on Tuesday evening and notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The substance was found along a six-mile stretch from Moriches Inlet to Smith Point Beach and measured one to two feet in diameter with some as large as five feet in diameter. The County Health Department determined the material to be non-hazardous. All beaches were reopened on Thursday. The Coast Guard is investigating possible points of origin.